

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 7 are independent. Claims 1, 2, and 7 are hereby amended. Claims 8-10 are hereby added. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed, specifically at page 15, lines 3-14. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 112 REJECTIONS

Claim 2, which was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as allegedly indefinite, is amended herein, obviating the rejection.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) REJECTIONS

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,573,905 to MacInnis, et al.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites, *inter alia*:

“...coefficient setting means for setting a blending coefficient α ($0 < \alpha < 1$) at a specified value proportional to a value of a specific picture element component included in picture element components A of a first image when said value of the specific picture element indicates a normal image component,

wherein said specified value is set to zero when said value of the specified picture element does not indicate a normal image component...” (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicant, U.S. Patent No. 6,573,905 to MacInnis, et al. (hereinafter, merely “MacInnis”) relates to a video and graphics system that receives graphics from memory. The graphics data defines multiple graphics layers and processing elements process two or more graphics layers in parallel to generate blended graphics. The cited portions of MacInnis disclose one of four methods for alpha derivation. This method sets alpha to 0 when a comparison is positive, otherwise alpha is set to 1.

Applicant submits that nothing has been found in MacInnis that would teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically, Applicant submits that MacInnis fails to teach a coefficient setting means for setting a blending coefficient α at a specified value proportional to a value of a specific picture element component included in picture element components A of a first image when said value of the specific picture element indicates a normal image component, wherein said specified value is set to zero when said value of the specified picture element does not indicate a normal image component, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claim 7, which recites similar features, is also believed to be allowable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.


CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
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